

**JANUARY 18, 2008**MICHAEL W. DOBBINS  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

TRUSTEES OF THE N.E.C.A. - )  
IBEW LOCAL 176 HEALTH, WELFARE, )  
PENSION, VACATION, AND TRAINING )  
TRUST FUNDS, )  
 )  
Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
vs. ) No.  
 )  
DAWN STELLA, Individually and dba )  
MAG ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC., ) Judge:  
a putative Illinois Corporation, )  
 )  
Defendants. )

**08 C 436****JUDGE CASTILLO  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE SCHENKIER**

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, by their attorneys, ARNOLD AND KADJAN and John F. Etzkorn, complain against Defendants DAWN STELLA, Individually ("STELLA") and dba MAG ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC., a putative Illinois Corporation as follows:

1. (a) Jurisdiction of this cause is based upon Section 301 of the National Labor Relations Act as amended, 29 U.S.C. 185(a), as hereinafter more fully appears.

(b) Jurisdiction of this cause is based upon Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. 1132 ("ERISA"), as hereinafter more fully appears.

2. (a) The Plaintiffs are the TRUSTEES OF THE N.E.C.A. -IBEW LOCAL 176 HEALTH, WELFARE, PENSION, VACATION, AND TRAINING TRUST FUNDS.

(b) The Pension Fund, Welfare Fund, and Vacation Fund (together called "the Funds") have been established pursuant to collective bargaining agreements heretofore entered into between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 176 (the "Union") and

certain employer associations whose members employ members of the Union, and the Funds are maintained and administered in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, and other applicable state and federal laws. The Funds are administered by the Plaintiffs as the presently acting trustees thereof, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, and other applicable state and federal laws and the terms and provisions of the Agreements and Declarations of Trust which established the Funds.

3. (a) Defendant **STELLA**, resides within this jurisdictional district.
- (b) Defendant **STELLA**, is an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce.
- (c) Defendant **STELLA**, has its principal place of business located at 1092 Carolina Drive, Unite 7, West Chicago, IL 60185.

4. (a) Since or about April 8, 2004, Defendant on information and belief, **STELLA**, an unincorporated business, executed a LETTER OF ASSENT, through Defendant **STELLA**, as "President", a copy of which is attached hereto , which authorized the Will County Division, Illinois Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Inc. (hereafter "NECA") as **STELLA** collective bargaining representative for all matters contained in or pertaining to the collective bargaining agreement then in force, and thereafter, between NECA and the Union, pursuant to a Letter of Assent executed on that date, a copy of which is attached hereto.

- (b) **STELLA**, is a putative corporation and was not, on May 4, 2004 or thereafter on information and belief, duly chartered by or requested with the Illinois Secretary of State.

5. Since before 1972, NECA, a multi-employer bargaining association authorized to negotiate and execute collective bargaining agreements on behalf of its members and authorizing employers, has entered into successive collective bargaining agreements with the Union on behalf of its members, including Defendant **STELLA**.

6. By virtue of certain provisions contained in the collective bargaining agreements and Declarations of Trust, Defendant has agreed to make fringe benefit contributions on behalf of certain of its employees, calculated in relation to the gross wages of said employees, and when given reasonable notice by the Trustees of said Funds or the Trustees' representatives, has agreed to submit its books and records to an independent auditor to determine whether or not said Defendant is in compliance with its duties under ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(A), the various collective bargaining agreements and the Declarations of Trust to which Defendant has assented.

7. In the event a delinquency is shown to be due and owing, Defendant has agreed to be liable for all costs, ten percent delinquency penalty and reasonable attorneys' fees.

8. Independent of said Declarations of Trust to which Defendant has assented, Defendant is liable for costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(E), a twenty percent penalty in liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(C)(ii), attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(D), and prejudgment interest pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(B).

9. Since after May 4, 2004, Defendant, **STELLA**, on information and belief, has admitted, acknowledged and ratified the collective bargaining agreements entered into between NECA and the Union by the filing of periodic report forms with the Funds and by its making some but not all of the periodic payments to the Funds as required by such agreements.

10. Plaintiffs are advised and believe that since on or about May 4, 2004, Defendant **STELLA**, has failed to make some of the contributions from time to time required to be paid by it

to the Funds pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreements by which it was bound, all in violation of its contractual obligations and its obligations under the applicable state and federal statutes.

11. Plaintiffs have made demand for an audit to be performed on Defendant **STELLA**'s complete books and records for the period from May 4, 2004 forward, but Defendant has failed and refused to produce all the required records.

12. By virtue of the foregoing, Plaintiffs and Defendant's employees on whose behalf Plaintiffs are acting as fiduciaries have been damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray:

A. Defendants be ordered to allow an audit of their books and records for the period from May 4, 2004 through the present.

B. That judgment be entered for Plaintiffs and against Defendant **STELLA**, in the amount shown to be due under the audit pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(A) and the aforesaid Declarations of Trust.

C. That Plaintiffs be awarded their costs herein, as follows:

(1) Twenty percent in liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(C)(ii), and the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

- (2) A ten percent penalty pursuant to the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;
- (3) Audit costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(E), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;
- (4) Attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(D), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented; and
- (5) Prejudgment interest pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1132(g)(2)(B).

D. That pending final determination of this cause, Defendant **STELLA**, be enjoined from violating the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and enjoined from failing to make timely payments to the Funds as set forth; and that upon final adjudication of the cause Defendant **STELLA** be permanently so enjoined.

E. That the court grant Plaintiffs such other and further relief as it may deem appropriate in the circumstances.



John F. Etzkorn  
Counsel for Plaintiffs

John F. Etzkorn  
ARNOLD AND KADJAN  
19 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3958  
(312) 236-0415

## LETTER OF ASSENT - A

In signing this letter of assent, the undersigned firm does hereby authorize Eastern IL Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Assoc as its collective bargaining representative for all matters contained in or pertaining to the

current and any subsequent approved<sup>2</sup>

Inside

labor agreement between the

Eastern IL Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Assoc and Local Union 176 IBEW

In doing so, the undersigned firm agrees to comply with, and be bound by, all of the provisions contained in said current and subsequent approved labor agreements. This authorization, in compliance with the current approved labor agreement, shall become effective on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of

It shall remain in effect until terminated by the undersigned employer giving written notice to the

Eastern IL Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Assoc and to the Local Union at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the then current anniversary date of the applicable approved labor agreement.

The Employer agrees that if a majority of its employees authorize the Local Union to represent them in collective bargaining, the Employer will recognize the Local Union as the NLRA Section 9(a) collective bargaining agent for all employees performing electrical construction work within the jurisdiction of the Local Union on all present and future jobsites.

In accordance with Orders issued by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland on October 10, 1980, in Civil Action HM-77-1302, if the undersigned employer is not a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association, this letter of assent shall not bind the parties to any provision in the above-mentioned agreement requiring payment into the National Electrical Industry Fund, unless the above Orders of Court shall be stayed, reversed on appeal, or otherwise nullified.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, IBEW  
MAG Electrical Contractors, Inc. 630-231-8006

<sup>3</sup> Name of Firm

1092 Carolina Dr. Unit 7

Street Address/P.O. Box Number

West Chicago, IL 60185

City, State (Abbr.) Zip Code

<sup>4</sup> Federal Employer Identification No.: 35 02 03981

SIGNED FOR THE EMPLOYER

BY Dawn Stella  
(original signature)

NAME Dawn Stella

TITLE/DATE Pres 4-8-04

APPROVED  
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IBEW  
Fax: 630-231-8004

MAY 4 2004

Edwin D. Hill, President  
This approval does not make the  
International a party to this agreement

SIGNED FOR THE UNION <sup>3</sup> 176 IBEW

BY David W. Udstuen  
(original signature)

NAME David W. Udstuen

TITLE/DATE Business Manager

INSTRUCTIONS (All items must be completed in order for assent to be processed)

<sup>1</sup> NAME OF CHAPTER OR ASSOCIATION

Insert full name of NECA Chapter or Contractors Association involved.

<sup>2</sup> TYPE OF AGREEMENT

Insert type of agreement. Example: Inside, Outside Utility, Outside Commercial, Outside Telephone, Residential, Motor Shop, Sign, Tree Trimming, etc. The Local Union must obtain a separate assent to each agreement the employer is assenting to.

<sup>3</sup> LOCAL UNION

Insert Local Union Number.

<sup>4</sup> EFFECTIVE DATE

Insert date that the assent for this employer becomes effective. Do not use agreement date unless that is to be the effective date of this Assent.

<sup>5</sup> EMPLOYER'S NAME & ADDRESS 4/2/04

Print or type Company name & address.

<sup>6</sup> FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.

Insert the identification number which must appear on all forms filed by the employer with the Internal Revenue Service.

<sup>7</sup> SIGNATURES

<sup>8</sup> SIGNER'S NAME

Print or type the name of the person signing the Letter of Assent. International Office copy must contain actual signatures-not reproduced-of a Company representative as well as a Local Union officer.

A MINIMUM OF FIVE COPIES OF THE JOINT SIGNED ASSENTS MUST BE SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR PROCESSING. AFTER APPROVAL, THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE WILL RETAIN ONE COPY FOR OUR FILES. FORWARD ONE COPY TO THE IBEW DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT AND RETURN THREE COPIES TO THE LOCAL UNION OFFICE. THE LOCAL UNION SHALL RETAIN ONE COPY FOR THEIR FILES AND PROVIDE ONE COPY TO THE SIGNATORY EMPLOYER AND ONE COPY TO THE LOCAL NECA CHAPTER.

IMPORTANT: These forms are printed on special paper and no carbon paper is required for duplicate copies. Remove from the pad enough copies of the form for a complete set and complete the form.